

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 L-03 H-01 INR-07 INRE-00 /033 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:RAMOSHER:LCB

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT

L/SCA:RDALTON

SCA: (INFO)

----- 048660 /44

O 171913Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306046

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, CGEN, PFOR, BU, (MAREVA, RUMYANA AND YORDANKA)

SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILY CASE: RUMYANA AND YORDANKA MAREVA

REFS: (A) SOFIA 2639, (B) STATE 233481

1. DEPARTMENT WHOLE-HEARTEDLY CONCURS IN POSITION PRESENTED BY EMBASSY IN PARA 5 REF A RE ROLE OF USG AND EMBASSY SOFIA IN DIVIDED FAMILY CASES AS WELL AS EMBASSY'S STRESSING OF ZHIVKOV'S ASSURANCE THAT DIVIDED FAMILY CASES WOULD BE SETTLED. (EUR/EE MET WITH L/SCA ON DECEMBER 15 TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF DUAL NATIONALITY AND PROBLEMS OF DUAL NATIONALS IN EASTERN EUROPE.)

2. DEPARTMENT ALSO CONCURS IN EMBASSY'S INTENTION TO RAISE CASE WITH CHIEF OF MFA FOURTH SECTION TO EMPHASIZE BILATERAL POLITICAL NATURE OF PROBLEM. DEPUTY ASSISTANT

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SECRETARY ARMITAGE WILL CALL IN AMBASSADOR POPOV FOR A PARALLEL MEETING. EUR/EE IS CONTACTING INTERESTED SENATORS REGARDING EMBASSY'S SUGGESTION THAT THEY WRITE TO ZHIVKOV ON BEHALF OF MAREV.

3. EUR/EE OFFICER AGAIN DISCUSSED CASE WITH MAREV ON

DECEMBER 10, WITHOUT MENTIONING REPORT IN SOFIA 2584 OF  
GOB REFUSAL. BASED ON INFORMATION LEARNED FOR FIRST TIME

-  
IN THIS MEETING, GOB MAY WELL HAVE REASON TO REMEMBER  
MAREV, WHO FIRST ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE BULGARIA IN 1952.  
IN 1955-56 HE SERVED A YEAR AND A HALF SENTENCE FOR AGAIN  
TRYING TO LEAVE BULGARIA ILLEGALLY. DURING A VISIT TO  
YUGOSLAVIA MAREV ENCOUNTERED SOME TURKISH TOURISTS WHO  
TOLD HIM THAT TURKEY DID NOT FORCIBLY RETURN DEFECTORS.  
THIS LED TO MAREV'S VISIT TO TURKEY IN 1967 ON A THREE-  
DAY EXCURSION TRIP WITH A BULGARIAN TOURIST GROUP. MRS.  
MAREV DID NOT KNOW OF MAREV'S INTENTION NOT TO RETURN  
TO BULGARIA, BUT AFTER SEVERAL DAYS IN TURKEY HE CONVINCED  
HER ALSO NOT TO RETURN.

4. MAREV ALSO SAID THAT, AS PART OF THEIR EFFORTS OVER  
THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THEIR  
CHILDREN FROM BULGARIA, HE AND WIFE HAVE WRITTEN SEVERAL  
STRONG LETTERS TO BULGARIAN OFFICIALS. ON AT LEAST FOUR  
DIFFERENT OCCASIONS MAREV CONTACTED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS  
"THE UNDERGROUND" IN AN EFFORT TO FIND SOMEONE WHO WOULD  
SMUGGLE HIS CHILDREN OUT OF BULGARIA. MAREV HIMSELF IS  
CONVINCED THAT THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE ANGERED THE BULGARIAN  
AUTHORITIES AND ARE AT LEAST PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR  
THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD MAREV AND HIS FAMILY.

5. MAREV IS CONVINCED THAT HE WOULD BE ARRESTED IF HE  
RETURNED TO BULGARIA, BUT BELIEVES THAT HIS WIFE WOULD  
BE WILLING AND ABLE TO VISIT BULGARIA AS WE PROPOSED IN  
STATE 300561. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT ACCEPTS EMBASSY'S  
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JUDGMENT THAT THE MAREV'S SHOULD NOT VISIT BULGARIA OR  
EVEN MAKE VISA APPLICATIONS AT THIS TIME. EMBASSY SHOULD  
KNOW THAT BULGARIAN EMBASSY MADE PITCH TO MAREV THAT HE  
SHOULD RETURN TO BULGARIA, WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO HAVE  
EMBASSY AUTHENTICATE HIS AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT. EMBASSY  
WILL ALSO REMEMBER THAT BULGARIAN EMBASSY VOIDED ITS  
AUTHENTICATION AND TOLD MAREV THAT DOCUMENT WAS IMPROPERLY  
PREPARED. (SEE STATE 233481).

6. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT WE SHOULD FOCUS OUR EFFORTS  
ON OBTAINING THE RELEASE OF THE MAREVA CHILDREN FROM  
BULGARIA. MAREV HAS INDICATED THAT HE HAS NO INTEREST  
IN SPONSORING ZHELEZOV IN EMIGRATING TO U.S. ADDITIONALLY,  
SINCE WE MAY NEED ZHELEZOV'S CONTINUED ASSISTANCE IN THIS  
CASE, WE SHOULD AVOID ANY DISCUSSION OF ZHELEZOV AND HIS  
OWN POSSIBLE DESIRES TO EMIGRATE IN ORDER TO AVOID  
BRINGING GOB PRESSURE TO BEAR ON HIM.

7. DEPARTMENT ALSO REQUESTS CLARIFICATION OF EMBASSY'S  
REASONING IN OPPOSING MAREV'S PURSUING FORMAL GOB APPEAL  
PROCEDURES AS APPROPRIATE. WHILE THE APPEALS PROCESS  
WOULD PROBABLY BE LENGTHY, AS KOVACHEV ADMITTED, IF

APPEAL EFFORT IS MADE IN PARALLEL WITH USG EFFORT IT  
MIGHT PROVIDE GOB WITH CONVENIENT JUSTIFICATION FOR  
APPROVING ISSUANCE OF EXIT PERMITS AND PASSPORTS. IN  
ANY CASE, DEPARTMENT WILL CONTACT MAREV TO DETERMINE IF  
AN OFFICIAL GOB DECISION HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO HIM BY  
BULGARIAN EMBASSY HERE.

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